

Tonya Lemire, Parent, Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet High School

My son Tyler has always been a big thinker. He's the kind of kid you're just as likely to find looking up at the stars as hunched over a computer keyboard; puzzling over one of life's many mysteries.

I knew that the choice I made for his high school education could make or break that creative spirit, which is why I was so excited to learn about ACT. You see, thinking big is something we should all strive to nurture in our children, and ACT does just that.

ACT fuels the creative spark with their innovative approach; by combining academics, skill building, and community outreach students are afforded the opportunity to make connections between seemingly disparate concepts-math and stage production, science and poverty, coding and art. Providing our students with experiences that encourage them to see the world in new and innovative ways is essential if we hope for them to succeed in an ever changing and increasingly complex society.

When we encourage our students to think big, we are also inviting them to be considerate of the ideas of others, by exposing them to different points of view. ACT supports this inquiry with their small class sizes, where students can feel engaged with each other and the material, and discuss issues while being led and supported by their instructors. Students at ACT learn and grow in a supportive and nurturing environment, where each student can feel free to express their individual strengths and talents.

Magnet schools like ACT are a critical component of our modern educational system. Students that may not be as successful in a traditional learning environment can thrive with the individualized instruction and unique approach that magnet schools provide. I am concerned that a lack of support to these programs could negatively impact students, like my son, in ways that

will be far reaching and long lasting. Please don't underestimate the power that schools such as ACT have on shaping our children's future, and ensuring that they continue to "think big".